New Course Request

Check Appropriate Boxes: Undergraduate credit [✓] Graduate credit [ ] Professional credit [ ]

1. School/Division: A & S / Anthropology
2. Academic Subject Code: ANTH
3. Course Number: 3XX (must be cleared with University Enrollment Services)
4. Instructor: Dr. Noor Borbieva
5. Course Title: Anthropology of the Muslim World

Recommended Abbreviation (Optional): Anthro Muslim World

(Limited to 32 Characters including spaces)

6. First time this course is to be offered (Semester/Year): Spring 2011
7. Credit Hours: Fixed at 3.0 ___ or Variable from ___ to ___
8. Is this course to be graded S-F (only)? Yes ___ No [x]
9. Is variable title approval being requested? Yes ___ No [x]
10. Course description (not to exceed 50 words) for Bulletin publication:
This course considers modern ethnographic work on Islamic cultures throughout the world. Central questions to be addressed include the construction of gender, negotiations between textual traditions and "popular" religious traditions, the relationship between religion and political regimes, and trends in western perspectives on the Muslim world.

11. Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at 3.0 ___ or Variable from ___ to ___
12. Non-Lecture Contact Hours: Fixed at ___ or Variable from ___ to ___
13. Estimated enrollment: 25 ___ of which 0 ___ percent are expected to be graduate students.
14. Frequency of scheduling: Biennial [ ] Will this course be required for majors? [x]
15. Justification for new course: [ ] no commensurate course available
16. Are the necessary reading materials currently available in the appropriate library? Yes [x]
17. Please append a complete outline of the proposed course, and indicate instructor (if known), textbooks, and other materials.
18. If this course overlaps with existing courses, please explain with which courses it overlaps and whether this overlap is necessary, desirable, or unimportant

19. A copy of every new course proposal must be submitted to departments, schools, or divisions in which there may be overlap of the new course with existing courses or areas of strong concern, with instructions that they send comments directly to the originating Curriculum Committee. Please append a list of departments, schools, or divisions thus consulted.

Submitted by: [Signature]
Date 4/22/10

Approved by: [Signature]
Date 5/12/10

Dean of Graduate School (when required) [Signature]
Date

Chancellor/Vice-President [Signature]
Date

University Enrollment Services [Signature]
Date

After School/Division approval, forward the last copy (without attachments) to University Enrollment Services for initial processing, and the remaining four copies and attachments to the Campus Chancellor or Vice-President.
Anthropology of the Muslim World
Professor Noor O'Neill Borbieva
Spring 2011

This course will consider modern ethnographic work on the Muslim world. We will look at the Muslim world broadly defined, including work on the Middle East, Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe. We will consider many aspects of life in Muslim societies not just religion, including trade, travel, identity, literature, and politics. Central questions to be addressed include the construction of gender, negotiations between textual traditions and "popular" religious traditions, the relationship between religion and political regimes, and trends in western perspectives on the Muslim world.

The course does not assume a background in anthropology or Islam, although a background in either will be helpful. The aims of this course include familiarizing you with the history and practices of Islam, exposing you to a variety of approaches to ethnography, and introducing you to the work of some of the most prominent anthropologists who have written or are writing about the Muslim world.

Written work: One midterm paper (5-7 pages), one research paper (18-20 pages), 6 short response papers (2 pages).

Grading

30% final paper
25% midterm paper
20% response papers
25% attendance and class participation

Week 1
Introduction to Islam and the origins of Islam.

Michael Sells. Approaching the Qur'an.

Weeks 2-5
Trends in the anthropology of the Muslim world and early ethnographies of the Muslim world.

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea. Guests of the Sheik.

Week 6
The orientalist critique
Talal Asad. "The Idea of an Anthropology of Islam."
Edward Said. “Representing the Colonized: Anthropology’s Interlocutors.”

WEEK 7-8
Gender and ethnography
Steven Caton. Yemen Chronicle.

WEEK 9
Religious observance
Suzanne Brenner. “Reconstructing Self and Society: Javanese Muslim Women and ‘the Veil.’”
Saba Mahmood. “Rehearsed Spontaneity and the Conventionality of Ritual: Disciplines of Salat.”

WEEK 10
Competing spiritual cosmologies

WEEKS 11-12
Islam and socialism
Maria Louw. Everyday Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia.
Gillian Tett. “Guardians of the Faith.”

WEEKS 13-14
Religion and mobility
Eungseon Ho. The Graves of Tarim: Genealogy and Mobility Across the Indian Ocean.

WEEK 15
Politics in the Muslim world
Jenny White. Islamist Mobilization in Turkey.

WEEK 16
Muslim culture in non-Muslim places
Ruth Mandel. “A Place of Their Own: Contesting Spaces and Defining Places in Berlin’s Migrant Community.”